


# Roots and Shoots



January 2007 Volume 23, Issue 1

<p><b>MASTER GARDENER INTERN CLASS BEGINS ON JANUARY 29</b></p>	<p><b>MCMGA MEETS ON JANUARY 23 AT MCPL AT 6:30 P.M.</b></p>												
<p>Current Master Gardeners are welcome to attend any of the upcoming sessions of the Master Gardener Intern training class. Please notify Amy Thompson (349-2575 or <a href="mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu">afthompson@purdue.edu</a>) if you plan on attending specific class sessions so that we will have the appropriate number of handouts. Attendance at the Intern class does not count as advanced training. If you know of someone who is interested in signing up and participating in the intern class, please have them contact the office or check the Monroe County Master Gardener webpage; class information should be posted there very soon.</p> <p><b>2007 MCMGA Training Schedule</b> <b>Sherwood Oaks Christian Church</b></p> <p><b>January 29, 2007</b> Welcome, 5:30, MCMGA President Marilyn Brinley Orientation, 5:40 - 6:00, Amy Thompson, Extension Educator Plant Science, 6:00 - 9:00, Mary Welch Keesey, Consumer Horticulture Specialist</p> <p><b>February 5, 2007</b> Soils &amp; Plant Nutrition, 6:00 - 9:00, Chris Parker, Extension Educator, Morgan County</p> <p><b>February 12, 2007</b> Plant Problem &amp; Diagnosis, 6:00 - 9:00, Amy Thompson, Extension Educator, Monroe County</p> <p><b>February 19, 2007</b>, Lawn Care, 6:00 - 8:00, Mike Ferree, Extension Educator, Bartholomew County</p> <p>Invasive Plants, 8:00 - 9:00, Cathy Meyer, Naturalist, Monroe County Parks &amp; Rec</p> <p><b>February 26, 2007</b>, House Plants &amp; Container Gardening, 6:00 - 7:00, Sharon Wise, Wylie House, Outdoor Interpreter</p> <p><b>(continued on page 3)</b></p>	<p>Join us for the January 23 general meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Monroe County Public Library in the first floor meeting room 1A. On the agenda are election of officers, program planning, distribution of membership guide, and discussion of garden tools. This slate of 2007 officers will be voted upon:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Marilyn Brinley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice Presidents</td> <td>Ann McEndarfer &amp; Nancy White</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurers</td> <td>Diana Young &amp; Dale Calabrese</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretaries</td> <td>Barbara Cappy &amp; Mary Hawkins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Journalists</td> <td>Helen Hollingsworth &amp; Susan Osborne</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State Adv. Board</td> <td>Eugene Brancolini &amp; Herman Young</td> </tr> </table> <p>Following the election of officers will be a brief discussion of program possibilities for 2007 and a discussion of your best garden tools. Plan to bring along your favorite new (or old) garden tool to share with us. We will have some suggestions for adaptive tools that can be used with special populations or for those of us who have problems with regular tools that don't adapt well. (Anyone else out there who is a lefty?)</p> <p>The membership booklet, <i>Folia and Flora</i>, will be distributed to those who have paid 2007 MG dues.</p> <p>Ample parking is available in the MCPL lot, the city lot west of Lincoln Street, and on side streets. Bring along a friend; we love to meet new gardeners. In case of bad weather, we will send a group email notice if the meeting is postponed and also arrange a weather-related announcement on radio station AM 1370.</p> 	President	Marilyn Brinley	Vice Presidents	Ann McEndarfer & Nancy White	Treasurers	Diana Young & Dale Calabrese	Secretaries	Barbara Cappy & Mary Hawkins	Journalists	Helen Hollingsworth & Susan Osborne	State Adv. Board	Eugene Brancolini & Herman Young
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## MEMBER NEWS BY NANCY WHITE



We apologize to Mike Engber for omitting his name in the list of 2006 volunteers recently. Thanks, Mike, for helping with the Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show.

### Winter MG Training Sessions

Some interesting training sessions are coming up this winter. Below is contact information. These can be attended by anyone, not just advanced level MGs. Be reminded that only Advanced Level MGs can gain credit for these. Advance registration is required for all of these. If you are interested and want to carpool, contact Nancy White, 824-4426 or [nwhite38@hotmail.com](mailto:nwhite38@hotmail.com).

1. **Horticulture Magazine Winter Session, *Harmonious Plan Design***, Indianapolis, February 15, contact: phone 877-436-7764 or [hortprogram.com](http://hortprogram.com)
2. **Horticulture Magazine Winter Session, *The Great Garden Debate***, Glencoe, IL, February 1, contact information same as above.
3. **Gibson County Master Gardeners, *When the North Wind Blows—Let's Talk Gardens***, February 10, Advanced Master Gardener training at Princeton, IN, programs and speakers include Gardening by Design, Gene Bush; Gardening for Blooms All Year and Water Gardens for Everyone, Mary Welch-Keesey; How to Start Your Seeds, Judy Schneider-kron; Indiana's Roadside Heritage, Indiana Department of Transportation, contact: (812) 385-3491 or (812) 782-3642 or email [auntie-grace@hotmail.com](mailto:auntie-grace@hotmail.com)
4. **Putnam County Advanced Master Gardener Training, *Get Rid of Winter Blahs***, February 24, at Greencastle, IN, program and speakers include How to Cope with Indiana Soils, Jim Luzar; Backyard Fruit Trees, Doug Aker; Hypertufa, Ken Breece; From Seeds to Success, Sherry Wise; Flower Arrangements from Your Garden, Karen Ambler, contact Linda Blocher (765) 522-3451 or (317) 525-2676
5. **Madison County Advanced Training**, February 24, at Alexandria, programs and speakers include Common Sense Pest Control for the Home Yard and Garden, Dr. Cliff Sadof, Purdue University; Just Daylilies, Cynthia Wilhoite; Nine Months of Native Plants in Bloom and Trilliums in a Midwest Garden, Gene Bush, contact (765) 641-9514 or [orick@purdue.edu](mailto:orick@purdue.edu). See Purdue Indiana Master Gardeners website for download instructions for more information.

### Gardening Products Web Address

Are you always looking for that unique catalog of gardening products? Try the new website of the Mail Order Gardening Association, [mailordergardening.com](http://mailordergardening.com), for more than 100 catalogs and magazine links.

### Poinsettias Thriving?

How are your poinsettias making it through the holiday season? Here are some pointers from our session with Gordon Elsbury:

- Always water with distilled water
- Shield them from drafts and direct heat
- Remove the foil pot coverings
- Remove any standing water in the pot saucer



## MG INTERN CLASS SCHEDULE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

**February 26, 2007**, Herbs, 7:00 - 9:00, Constance Campbell Ferry, Owner, Hobbit Gardens

**March 5, 2007**, Vegetables, 6:00 - 7:30, Joanna Howe, Advanced Master Gardener (Gold), Small Fruits, 7:30 - 9:00, Jim Barbour, Extension Educator, Marion County

**March 12, 2007**, Landscape Design & Woody Ornamentals, 6:00 - 8:00, Anita Bracalente, Landscape Designer, Hardscaping, 8:00 - 9:00, Helen Hollingsworth, Advanced Master Gardener (Bronze)

**March 19, 2007**, Entomology & Insect Control, 6:00 - 9:00, Dr. Cliff Sadof, Purdue Entomology Dept

**March 26, 2007**, Pruning, 6:00 - 8:00, Mike Schrader, IU Grounds, Composting, 8:00 - 9:00, TBA

**April 2, 2007**, Pesticides: Safety & Application, 6:00 - 9:00, Dr. Fred Whitford, Director, Purdue Pesticide Program

**April 9, 2007**, Dealing with Invasive Wildlife, 6:00 - 8:00, Judy Loven, USDA Wildlife Biologist, Rain Gardens, 8:00 - 8:30, Todd Stevenson, Monroe Co Drainage Engineer, Mentoring of 2006 Class and Test Review, 8:30 - 9:00, Amy Thompson, Extension Educator, Monroe County

**April 16, 2007**, Herbaceous Ornamentals,, Perennials & Annuals, 6:00 - 9:00, Trena Trusty, Advanced Master Gardener

**April 23, 2007**, Final Exam & Evaluation

**This schedule is subject to change**

### INTERESTED IN DEER FENCING? BY NANCY WHITE

Several of you know that recently the White family gave up on all the magic potions to control our wild deer population. Nothing worked for us, and we did try anything and everything. An ad in Horticulture Magazine caught our eye in early 2005: the Benner Garden Company in Pennsylvania has developed what they call "a virtually invisible deer fence." We investigated the product and hired a local landscaper to install our deer fence in March 2005.

We now have enjoyed it for two growing seasons and give it high praise. It has forced our large deer herd to take a new path and has allowed our damaged shrubs and trees to begin the healing process. We fenced about two acres of our property, and the fence is almost invisible, especially in the growing season. It does not keep out the raccoons or rabbits, so we found some chicken fencing that we attached to the deer fencing, and that has eliminated our other varmints. We would be happy to share our success with anyone and provide information on the company that sells the product and on the local installer. We give guided tours, too! Just give us a call.

### LANDSCAPING NATURALLY

Submitted by Amy Thompson



Cathy Meyer, naturalist for the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department is looking for donated native plants and seeds. Donations will be used in areas of Karst Farm Park that are currently being mowed. Decreased mowing will help conserve fuel and improve wildlife habitat. Areas that are currently mowed will be planted with grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs. This will enhance the arboretum they are establishing at Karst Farm Park by providing examples of alternative landscape plantings for homeowners. Cathy also would like to have an area certified as a wildlife habitat and as a Monarch Waystation. If you would like to make a donation, contact Cathy at 349-2800.

## LONGWOOD GARDENS ARE A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE

BY MARY HAWKINS



What a visual, eye-candy treat to visit Longwood Gardens during the Chrysanthemum Festival in November! So many varieties were featured and displayed in so many unusual, astounding ways. If I had known about Longwood Gardens before, my brother would not have had to wait until his 60th birthday for me to visit him! Now, I want to visit him every season of the year. It will be a treat to see Longwood Gardens during all its changing, panorama vistas.

Longwood Gardens is located about 30 miles west of Philadelphia, PA, and 12 miles north of Wilmington, DE at 1001 Longwood Road, Kennet Square, PA. Its history begins with some of the first tree lovers of our country, the George Peirce family. The family had purchased 402 acres from William Penn in 1700. Then in 1798 Samuel and Joshua Peirce, the twin great-grandsons of George Peirce began collecting, purchasing and planting trees from Europe, Asia and North America. This nationally recognized arboretum becomes known as Peirce's Park in 1860. It was Pierre duPont though who was the real hero. He purchased 202 acres of the Peirce farm in 1906 to save the mature trees from the log mill. The rest is history, as they say, as the duPonts gradually developed Longwood Gardens, Inc. into its private not-for-profit organization for purposes of exhibition, instruction, education and enjoyment. Pierre du Pont's endowment, admission income, and the Longwood Gardens Shop sustains the gardens, allowing its six hundred employees, students, and volunteers to keep Longwood's 1,050 acres breathtakingly beautiful.

Not only are the beautiful flower displays breathtaking to behold, but also the garden's numerous water features are outstanding. An open air theatre is surrounded by wisteria magnificence that I could only imagine since November is long past wisteria's prime time appearance. The attractions also include the interactive children's gardens, azalea and orchid houses, a 62-bell carillon in the Chimes Tower, bonsai displays, museums in the original Peirce House, a silver garden and a water lily display. To learn of the many other features of this national treasure, go to [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org) because justice just cannot be done in this brief article of all the offerings of this cultural paradise.

To return to the Chrysanthemum Festival, though, I want to mention some of the fascinating displays. These included pagodas made out of mums, as well as five—six-foot-long, three-foot-wide hanging, cascading displays. Tree mums, mums that looked like daisies and sunflowers, exhibition, spider, semi-double, spoon and anemone-like mums were displayed, and these displays are absolutely a horticultural, fine art, visual miracle.

We owe our thanks for the chrysanthemum to China, where they existed some 2,500 years ago. From China, chrysanthemums went to Japan around the eighth century and gained popularity with the Imperial Palace, with the people calling them the queen of flowers. The chrysanthemum arrived from Europe to America in the early 1800s, and we have been busy since then cultivating hundreds of varieties.

To give you a brief idea of the work and time it takes to present this impressive November festival at Longwood, the displaying gardeners begin work in mid-January, taking cuttings from their stocks. This work continues until mid-spring. The correct amounts of hormones are applied to the cuttings to encourage root growth. After the cuttings are well rooted, they are transplanted to successively larger pots. Other techniques used are growth regulators to obtain small, compact plants and use of special fertilizers or controlled lighting to obtain tall plants. To get the cascade effect, the gardeners train the plants on wire trellises, periodically pinching and tying down the ends to encourage the desired effect. The baskets require special pinching to yield one leader from each plant. Excess buds are removed to encourage one, single large bloom on some of the plants.

After the danger of frost, gardeners move the plants from the greenhouses to the fields to let Mother Nature do her magic. Pinching is discontinued about September 1, and all the plants are moved back inside October 1 for final preparations. All are in full bloom by November 1, and blooms last about five weeks. The result of all this tedious work is the most magnificent arrangements of over 10,000 chrysanthemums of over 100 varieties! If you ever get a chance to see this Chrysanthemum Festival at Longwood Gardens, you will be totally enchanted. I know I was, and, brother, see you again soon now that I know of this treasure in southeastern Pennsylvania.



## THREE OUTSTANDING BOOKS ON PRUNING BY M. SUSAN OSBORNE



***The Pruner's Bible: A Step-by-Step Guide to Pruning Every Plant in Your Garden*** by Steve Bradley; published by Rodale, Inc., 2005.

***Pruning Made Easy: A Gardener's Visual Guide to When and How to Prune Everything from Flowers to Trees*** by Lewis Hill, published by Storey's Gardening Skills, illustrated, 1997.

***The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques*** by Tracy DiSabato-Aust, published by Timber Press, 1998.

Do you prune? Does pruning in your garden frighten you? Have you lost plants, trees, or shrubs that became overgrown because you did not prune? Do you need techniques that you can adapt?

My early gardening experiences with pruning were disastrous or near disastrous because I did not know the whats, the whys, or the whens of pruning. So, I set out to discover the ins and outs, the whens and whys by asking questions; attending symposiums, workshops and lectures; and reading and reading, and reading.

I discovered the simplest and most informative book is ***The Pruner's Bible***. A short introductory section outlines the essential reasons for pruning, while the main portion of the book offers a plant directory. It features over 70 of the most popular garden plants, offering basic advice for caring for each, detailed pruning instructions, and illustrations. As a bonus, the end of the book offers a specialized section on pruning topics such as hedges, ground covers, and climbers, as well as information on no-or low-prune plants.

One of the more outstanding features of the book is the individual plant entries. Each entry is awarded two pages of information. A few paragraphs of basic information, a great color photograph, and a drawing illustrating where to make your pruning cuts—routine and dead and defective growth. Each plant has information on formative, routine, and remedial pruning. The author provides informative sections titled “Why Prune?”, “Pruning Tips”, “Other Plants Pruned this Way”, “Which Tools”, and “When to Prune Most Species.” Wow!

***Pruning Made Easy*** is also a simply illustrated book; however, the contents are more diverse: Reasons to Prune, Tools and Equipment and Pruning Methods. It also covers Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Shade Trees, Evergreens, Hedges, Artistic Pruning, Fruit Trees and Small Fruits, Nut Trees, Vines, and Groundcovers, Garden Plants and Houseplants and Bonsai. The sections are pencil drawing illustrated, no color photos, but the illustrations indicate where to make the prune. More than 300 step-by-step illustrations demonstrate the proper techniques for pruning the many varieties of trees, shrubs, bushes, hedges, vines, and flowers.

The first page of each chapter provides an overview, an easy reference. A few paragraphs of information about the chapter are offered, followed by explanations and tips. An abundance of Master Gardening tips on most every page are very helpful.

In ***Pruning Made Easy***, the author says you will learn exactly when, where, and why various plants should be pruned; artistic pruning techniques for topiary, espalier, and cordons; methods of using and caring for pruning tools and equipment; and how to prune safely.

***The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*** has been highly acclaimed by other reviewers. Many of you have read articles by Tracy DiSabato-Aust in national magazines such as *Country Gardens*, *Garden Design*, and *Garden Gate*, and may have seen her on Home and Garden Television. For someone who is so highly acclaimed one has expectations that her book would also receive high merits – and it does!

***The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*** provides unique and valuable information useful to both beginning and experienced gardeners. The first 120 pages are devoted to three chapters: Section One: Basic Perennial Garden Planting and Maintenance; Section Two: Pruning Perennials; and Section Three: A Guide to Using the A-Z Encyclopedia of Perennials. Section One discusses design, bed preparation, pests, diseases, staking, division of plants, and renovation of the established garden. Section Two introduces pruning, deadheading, cutting back, pinching, de-budding, thinning, dead leafing, and pruning to prepare for the winter and spring. Section Three provides a handy guide to the A-Z Encyclopedia. The next hundred pages offers concisely written descriptions on many perennials. The listings include the Latin name as well as the common name, zones, the plant family, plant description, size, exposure, flowering time, pruning advise, other plant maintenance, and other related plants.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY MARILYN BRINLEY



Another year has come and gone. 2006 is past now, and it is time to look forward to 2007. I, like many others, commemorate the New Year by making a list of resolutions that will have little chance of being kept. It seems that most of us realize only a few days into the month of January that our carefully crafted resolutions have already been broken.

In that spirit, I often like to create a list, which will require most of the year to either fulfill or break. For instance, one of this year's resolutions will be to get out into my garden more to weed. And I will work harder to get a good tomato harvest this year. I think you get the point; this way I will have most of the growing season to see if I can do better.

However, one resolution I know I will have absolutely no trouble keeping is my promise to continue to do whatever I can in whatever capacity I can for our organization. This past year has been a wonderful year with a great deal of hard work, but also many great rewards. I have been fortunate to be surrounded by many other dedicated individuals who have inspired me in my quest to better serve our association.

Another resolution I have made is that I will be more diligent about reporting my volunteer and continuing education hours to the extension office. In the past I have felt lucky to get a report of my hours in at the end of the year. However, in working with our extension agent, Amy Thompson, this year, I have come to understand just how important it is that she receives more frequent updates not only from me, but also from all of our members. As a service organization, it is important that we report to Purdue University just how busy and productive our membership is. As our group exists to help others grow, we need to be able to show just how well we are doing.

As such, I invite each and every one of you to join me in this last resolution. If you haven't reported your hours recently, then now is the time. The new hours form can be found on our website, [www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net), or can be picked up at the extension office. I am sure we would all be shocked at just how many hours have gone unreported by our members. Let's see if we can surprise Amy and Purdue this year.

### POINSETTIA PLANT — IS IT POISONOUS TO PETS?

Compiled by Gail Ruhl, Senior Plant Disease Diagnostician, Purdue University

During the month of December many pet owners question whether their Poinsettia plant might be harmful to their pets, if ingested.

In an article on ["Holiday Health Hazards"](#) found on a website provided by The College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University, the following information is provided on Poinsettia, as well as Mistletoe and Holly.

"Poinsettias fill homes with color during the holidays. Poinsettias have received bad publicity in the past whereas in fact, poinsettias are not very toxic to pets. They do contain a milky sap that can irritate the mouth but if signs develop they are usually mild.

"Mistletoe can be very toxic to animals and you should seek veterinary consultation immediately if your pet has potentially ingested any part of the plant. Mistletoe can cause vomiting, severe diarrhea, difficult breathing, shock and death within hours of ingestion.

"There are many species of Holly (genus *Ilex*). Berries and leaves can be a problem although signs of poisonings are generally mild, and include vomiting, belly pain, and diarrhea."

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION. FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, CALL 349-3400

**Plant Selection for a Nature Garden** Learn how to select plants most suitable for the conditions in various parts of your garden. The class will place special emphasis on plants which are best suited to feed and attract wildlife. We'll discuss some trees and shrubs, but we will mainly look at herbaceous annuals and perennials, including grasses, sedges and forbs.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Mark Dauble, Horticulturist

**Other:** Co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47645-A	\$8/in-city \$10/non-city	Wed.	1/31	1/26	7 - 9 p.m.

**Historic Gardening** Learn the importance of growing heirloom plants and seed saving. Receive step-by-step instructions on how to grow heirlooms, collect their seeds, and store them correctly. Obtain information on heirloom seed sources and reference books.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Sherry Wise, Wylie House Museum Historic Garden Educator

**Other:** Co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47634-A	\$8/in-city \$10/non-city	Wed.	2/21	2/16	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Gardening with Annuals** Annuals are a gardener's sure bet for bright, vivid colors all season long. The right annuals, properly selected for a specific site, will have a strong visual impact and look good all season. We will discuss design tips, matching plants to the site, and bed maintenance and review an assortment of noteworthy plants.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Mark Dauble, Horticulturist

**Other:** Co-sponsored by Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47628-A	\$8/in-city \$10/non-city	Wed.	2/28	2/23	7 - 9 p.m.

**Designing a Garden with Your Child** Parents and teachers: Designing a garden for young people can be fun and easy! The workshop will cover the basics of designing a garden with your child(ren) to ensure success and enjoyment. Learn how to involve kids in the process from start to finish!

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Stori Snyder

**Other:** Co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47622-A	\$8/in-city \$10/non-city	Thurs.	3/1	2/26	6 - 7:30 p.m.

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## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION. FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, CALL 349-3400

**Seed Starting** It's time to start those seeds indoors in order to have a head start by the frost-free date! We will cover a variety of seed-starting techniques as well as what seeds you should start indoors and what seeds are better suited to sowing outside. We'll also cover germination rates and requirements.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Marcia Figueiredo

**Other:** Co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47651-A	\$8/in-city \$10/non-city	Sat.	3/3	2/28	2 - 3:30 p.m.

**Bee All You Can BEE: Beginning Beekeeping** In this brief introduction to the biology of honeybees and the equipment and management practices necessary for small-scale beekeeping, students will learn how to keep bees for a hobby, as a source of income, as a way to get honey, or as a means of pollinating crops.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** George Hegeman, Ph.D.

**Other:** Co-sponsored by Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47667-A	\$8/in-city \$10/non-city	Thurs.	3/8	3/5	6 - 7:30 p.m.

**Habitat Stewards Training** In this class designed by the National Wildlife Federation, students will learn the skills required to help community members certify their properties as National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitats. While becoming Habitat Stewards, students will learn to identify plants and animals and how to landscape to provide food, water, and shelter for wildlife.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Lucille Bertuccio and a team of naturalists

**Other:** Co-sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Living. A \$16 textbook must be purchased at first class meeting. Last class session is a field trip. Please bring a sack lunch.

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47632-A	\$18/in-city \$22/non-city	Sat.	3/24 - 4/14	3/21	9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Making Herbal Remedies** Herbal remedies have always been the medicine of the people. Learn how to make herbal remedies, including the preparation of infusions, tinctures, steam inhalants, oils, poultices, salves, and syrups. Handouts provided.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Justin Peterson, herbalist

**Other:** Co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47642-A	\$10/in-city \$12/non-city	Thurs.	4/12	4/9	6 - 8 p.m.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	855-2799
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Lydia Anderson, 825-2961, landers@wormsway.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Steve Doty, 988-2785
Cheryl's Garden	seasonal	various	Larime Wilson, 333-9705
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349,2800
MCMGA Horticulture Hotline	year around	inquiries and research	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Newsletter	year around	writing, stapling, labeling	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barb Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Ann McEndarfer, 334-1801 Nancy White, 824-4426
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 855-6224
Bloomington Hospitality House	year around	educate seniors	Rene Thompson, 353-3000
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Garton Farm	year around	Assess grounds, develop plans	Michael Bell, 336-6141

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.**

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION. FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, CALL 349-3400

**Sundials in Your Garden** The sundial is humanity's oldest, and, in a sense, most accurate time-keeping device. In this two-part class, we will learn how sundials keep time and will build a small sundial to take home and use.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Bruce Behan

**Other:** Materials fee of \$6, payable in class

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47658-A	\$14/in-city \$18/non-city	Sat.	4/14 - 4/21 2 classes, 4 hours	4/9	10 a.m. - Noon

**Water Gardening** This is an early-season look at how to build a pond, fountain, stream, or waterfall for your garden. The workshop will cover design and layout of water features and the materials and methods used in construction. The focus will be on digging, building materials, and pumps.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Mark Dauble, Horticulturist

**Other:** Weather permitting, there will be a hands-on component. Please wear appropriate gardening attire and bring gloves, if you have them. Co-sponsored by Hilltop Garden and Nature Center.

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47665-A	\$8/in-city \$10/non-city	Sat.	4/14	4/11	1 - 3 p.m.

**Rhizomes and Tubers and Bulbs - Oh My!** Learn how to use and care for plants grown from rhizomes, tubers, corms, and bulbs. Take care of your bulbs in the spring for beautiful garden color. Participants will learn the secrets for success with growing, propagating, and protecting these beautiful and versatile plants and how to design with them in the garden. The class will cover companion plantings, common problems, and the planting of bulbs in summer.

**Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

**Location:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2301 E. 10th St.

**Instructor:** Michael Simmons and Mark Dauble, Horticulturists

**Other:** Co-sponsored by Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Code	Cost	Day	Date(s)	Register by	Time
47648-A	\$10/in-city \$12/non-city	Wed.	4/18	4/13	6 - 8 p.m.

**For registration information call 349-3400**

Source: <http://www.bloomington.in.gov/egov/scripts/docs.php?path=doc&id=4257&id2=4277&linked=0&fDD=182-744>

### CATMINT 'WALKER'S LOW' NAMED 2007 PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

The Perennial Plant Association has Catmint (*Nepeta*) 'Walker's Low' as its 2007 Perennial Plant of the Year. 'Walker's Low' is a versatile, hardy, herbaceous perennial that is terrific for edging, ground cover, and container and rock gardens. It also makes an excellent substitute for lavender, which really struggles in our climate.

## JANUARY GARDEN AND YARD CALENDAR

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

### HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

Keep holiday poinsettias and other plants near a bright window. Water as top of soil becomes dry.

Increase humidity around houseplants by grouping plants together, placing them on a pebble-water tray or running a humidifier.

Check stored produce and tender flower bulbs and roots for rot, shriveling or excess moisture. Remove and discard damaged material.

Repot houseplants as they outgrow current pots.

### YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.

Keep road and sidewalk salt away from plants. Construct a screen of burlap, if necessary, to keep salt spray off plants.

"Leaf" through nursery catalogs and make plans for landscape and home orchard additions. Order plants early for best selection.

Early spring-flowering trees and shrubs, such as forsythia, crabapple, flowering quince, flowering dogwood and honeysuckle, can be forced for early indoor blooms by placing cut branches in water in a warm location.

### GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

Send for seed catalogs for the garden.

Sketch your garden plans on paper, including what to grow, spacing, arrangement and number of plants needed.

Order seeds and plants as early as possible for best selection.

Wood ashes from the fireplace can be spread in the garden, but don't overdo it. Wood ashes increase soil pH, and excess application can make some nutrients unavailable for plant uptake. Have soil tested to be certain of the pH before adding wood ash.

### THREE OUTSTANDING BOOKS ON PRUNING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

DiSabato-Aust says that she chose to offer brief descriptions because her object was to provide new and easily referenced material specific to the maintenance and pruning of perennials, not another descriptive manual. She encourages her readers to use the encyclopedia just as a quick reference, but to mostly read and become familiar with the information offered in the chapters (Sections I & II). The first two chapters provides readers the very best tricks of her trade. The appendices include ornamental grasses, a wonderful month-by-month planting and maintenance schedule, and a list of perennials for specific pruning and maintenance requirements. A glossary exists (great for the novice gardener) as well as an index of plant names. One hundred and thirty-one striking photographs illustrate how to give perennials the kind of care that will allow them to look their best. The book's primary purpose is to give the gardener advice on how to establish a garden that delights the eye from season-to-season, month-to-month instead of a few brief days. All three books offer a variety of information that I found valuable. ***The Pruner's Bible*** offers a comprehensive section on why pruning is necessary, great full-color illustrations and extensive charts, checklists and summaries. ***Pruning Made Easy*** is a wonderful guide discussing everything from flowers to trees. A diverse listing of plants, special plants, special techniques, and those great Master Gardening Tips are included. ***The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*** has two chapters of information fully explaining and illustrating planning and caring with an emphasis on minimum maintenance as well as the brief and informative A-Z Encyclopedia, a great reference book so we can work smarter and obtain magic in our gardens. Wow! Three great books! The question is, which to choose? My suggestion: read all three and you be the judge! Happy pruning!

## January 2007 Volume 23, Issue 1

Cooperative Extension Service  
Health Building  
119 West Seventh Street  
Bloomington, IN 47404

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
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**Attend the MG General Meeting  
at 6:30 p.m. on January 23 at MCPL, Room 1A.**

### MASTER GARDENER BOARD

**President:** Marilyn Brinley  
Marilyn: 824-1318 mlbrinley@aol.com

**Vice Presidents:** Ann McEndarfer, Nancy White  
Ann: 334-1801 amcendar@truman.edu  
Nancy: 824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

**Treasurers:** Dale Calabrese, Diana Young  
Dale: 332-3833 kcalabre@indiana.edu  
Diana: 812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

**Secretaries:** Barbara Cappy, Mary Hawkins  
Barbara: 837-9246 bacappy@msn.com  
Mary: 824-2139 marywalloon@aol.com

**Journalists:** Lydia Anderson, Helen Hollingsworth  
Lydia: 825-2961 landers@wormsway.com  
Helen: 332-7313 hlhollin@indiana.edu

**State Advisory Committee Representatives:**  
Gino Brancolini, Herman Young  
Gino: 336-1680 brancol@indiana.edu  
Herman: 339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

**Extension Educator:** Amy Thompson  
Amy: 349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

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